

Break-out group 1, 14 June, 'Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation at national level'

10th EIONET workshop on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation, 14-15 June 2016, EEA, Copenhagen

Background EEA and ETC CCA activities

The EEA, supported by ETC CCA, published a report on '[National adaptation policy processes in European countries](#)' in 2014 and a report on '[National monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation in Europe](#)' (MRE) in 2015.

The 2015 report covered:

- drivers and purposes of national MRE systems;
- governance (horizontal, vertical), coordination and participation of stakeholders;
- methods used (adaptation indicators, qualitative and mixed-methods approaches);
- application of results from monitoring and evaluation to inform and improve adaptation policy and practice and communication aspects.

The report highlighted that countries need to follow the implementation of policies and activities, report on progress and evaluate effectiveness and efficiency to inform future practice. Adaptation is a relatively new policy area, hence MRE can play a critical role in enhancing learning, raising awareness about climate change adaptation and understanding of what works (or not) in which contexts and why. Countries are planning to use information gained from their monitoring and evaluation systems to revise either their national strategies or plans. More effective national level MRE also presents an opportunity for enhancing learning across sectors, governance levels and between member states.

Although there is a strong imperative to plan and implement MRE systems at national level, only few countries have so far progressed to the implementation phase. A growing number of countries, however, are working on the development of their national MRE systems and many others are planning to do so in the future.

While various European countries have MRE systems in place and some have evaluated their national adaptation strategies/plans, most have tended to focus on monitoring and reporting rather than evaluation. However more and more countries wish to perform an evaluation to demonstrate progress, adjust policies and measures or point to a need for additional financial, human or technical support.

A variety of approaches are used in MRE, e.g. reviews by independent bodies and self-assessment by sectors, as well as the development of indicators. The report concludes that a 'mixed methods' approach, which combines quantitative and qualitative information, provides a strong basis for assessing adaptation progress and performance. So far indicators have a prominent role in the MRE systems in place, measuring trends in changes to

exposure and vulnerability over time, and observed impacts, and only few countries have developed 'mixed methods' approaches. It can be expected that in future an increasing number of countries will develop 'mixed methods' approaches and sets of adaptation indicators, while taking into account the national context, including in particular resource and data availability.

The evaluation of adaptation policies is challenging due to the nature of adaptation. In this context member countries welcome more support on the methods that can be developed and used to evaluate their adaptation policies.

In 2016 work focuses on identifying further how evaluation processes can be utilised to identify lessons learnt and improve adaptation practices in particular in the countries that have been implementing evaluation activities. Furthermore analyses will be done on experiences from other policy fields, which have a longer history of developing methods and evaluating policies, and if/how lessons learnt can be transferred to the area of adaptation. Also possible valuable insights to be gained from experiences elsewhere in the world will be assessed. As an outcome a short EEA publication is planned by end of 2016.

Potential work in 2017 should be discussed and prioritised, based e.g. on recent policy developments and related knowledge needs, added value and resources.

Policy developments and related EU and international reporting

In 2015 Member States provided reports on their adaptation activities under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (2013), including also on MRE. The reported information has been incorporated into the country pages of Climate-ADAPT.

In 2017 the Commission will report to the European Parliament and the Council on the state of implementation of the 2013 EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change and propose its review if needed (in 2018). The report will include information on progress by Member States; progress in mainstreaming in EU policies and EU Funds and on new knowledge and demands. This Commission report will include an adaptation preparedness scoreboard, with key process-based indicators for measuring Member States' level of readiness. The scoreboard covers the main steps in adaptation policy making: preparing the ground for adaptation, assessing risks and vulnerabilities, identifying adaptation options, implementing adaptation action, and monitoring and evaluation. The time schedule is as follows (EU Working Group on adaptation, Feb. 2016):

- Sep 2016: Commission sends a request to update Climate-ADAPT national pages;
- Nov 2016 – Mar 2017: Commission updates national fiches, asks MS for comments and revises the national scoreboard fiches;
- Mar-May 2017: Commission prepares analysis;
- Autumn 2017: Commission will publish their report, including the scoreboard.

Key global developments with MRE aspects also relevant for European countries are:

- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#). The framework is a voluntary, nonbinding agreement including four priorities for action and seven targets. The framework acknowledges climate change as “one of the drivers of disaster risk”. A set of [indicators](#) to measure progress in its implementation will be finalised by end of 2016. Indicators for weather and climate related hazards are expected to be relevant and useful for climate change adaptation.
- [UNFCCC Paris agreement](#). There are many [agreed UNFCCC related actions on adaptation](#), which have been enhanced and expanded. E.g. countries should prepare ‘adaptation communications’. During 2016 discussions take place to agree on the scope and content of these communications and how these are linked to the regular (5-yearly) national communications and/or intended national contributions reporting (see e.g. a [OECD paper, May 2016](#)).

Questions for the break-out session at the 10th EIONET workshop, 14 June

The break-out session at the 10th EIONET workshop will provide an opportunity to provide some more details about work done in 2015 and done/planned in 2016 and to have a discussion along the following guiding questions, also about potential 2017 work:

1. *What are your views on the relevance, scope and timing of the EEA work on MRE so far?*
2. *How did the EEA work support member countries and their MRE activities?*
3. *How can EEA work in 2017 be prioritised, taking into account recent and expected policy developments?*